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Usage of Social Networking Sites by the Students of Mizoram College of Nursing, Aizawl, India: A Study

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Abstract:

Development and advancement of the WWW have changed the way people access information and communicate with each other. This paper aimed to explore the effects of Social networking sites on the students of Mizoram College of Nursing, Aizawl. A structured questionnaire was designed and distributed to 100 students which 96 duly filled questionnaire was received. The findings of the study revealed that all the students were aware with SNSs and most of the students were having more than one account. Facebook, YouTube, Instagram was found the most commonly used SNSs. The main problems faced by the students while using SNSs are lack of privacy, poor internet facility, internet fraud and lack of technical knowledge.

Keywords: Social Networking Sites, ICT, Mizoram College of Nursing, Facebook, YouTube, World Wide Web.

1. Introduction:

The advancement of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has brought a radical change where people share information and communicate with each other. The internet and the WWW have also brought in the creation of online Social Networking Sites (SNS) as a kind of ICT. William and Merten (2008) define social media as, “advances that made social correspondence simple and empower talks among its members”. SNS is a virtual community which allows people to share various types of personal information and interact with other users from one place to another. In general, social network is a collection of individuals connected together by a set of interrelation and allow quick interchange of information.

Social media is one kind of platform that can assist information seekers who desire to get larger amount of knowledge in the field. Social networking help in pioneering, attractive attitude for cultivating education in forthcoming nursing professionals by enabling and increasing discussion away from the traditional classroom, supporting critical thinking, providing cooperation among the students

and teachers and supporting with easy-going education (Ross & Myers, 2017). SNSs allows users to interact with each other, share information and resources, exchange files and suggestions which helps in easy dissemination of information to different parts of the world. Social Networking Sites have exaggerated our social collaboration by exchanging the way we act together, the way we collect information and the changing aspects of our social groups and companionships (Asur & Huberman, 2010). Thus, SNS have truly become an open platform and capacity to share information, knowledge for learning where the students can access and disseminate their informative needs.

1.1 Social Networking Sites:

Social networking sites are an online portal or web services which include to building a social relation among group of individuals. It can be articulated as social construction sites among the social users in web 2.0 realm. According to Sadeh (2007), advances in web technology have created more sociable, friendly and fun surroundings for retrieving and distributing information and one of such is social networking websites. These sites normally allow users to produce a profile describing themselves, interchange community or private messages and lists other users or groups connected in the same way. This stage is used for social accomplishments by organizations, university and community especially among the youths.

The internet applications glossary defines social networking as, “the practice of expanding the number of one’s business or social contacts by making connections through individuals. While social networking has gone on almost as long as societies themselves have existed, the unparalleled potential of the internet to promote such connection is only now being fully recognized and exploited through web-based groups established for the purpose”. Computing dictionary (2011) states that “Social networking sites as any website designed to allow multiple users to publish content of themselves. The information may be on any subject and may be for consumption by friends, mates, employers, employees just to mention a few”. SNSs are important tool to increase greater knowledge and skills for nursing students in professional communication, health strategy, patient secrecy, integrities and writing capabilities in assisting the student’s preferences for informatics rich learning atmospheres to conduct their specialized use of online equipment.

1.2 Scenario of Mizoram College of Nursing:

Mizoram College of Nursing (MCON) is a nursing institution run by the Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Mizoram in India. The school was established in 1980 with an intake of 20 students for the General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) course. Since its inception more than 500 students have qualified for the course. The institution was upgraded to BSc (Nursing) programme in 2005. The institution was subsequently approved by the Mizoram Nursing Council (MNC), Aizawl and was affiliated to Mizoram University. The Mizoram Nursing College campus is located at Falkawn adjacent to the Mizoram Medical College. It is equipped with different facilities to support the nursing education with the modest tools and technologies, like library, computer laboratory, nursing laboratory, classrooms, hostel and others.

2. Review of Literature:

Nyagah, Stephen & Mwanja (2015) have conducted a study on SNSs and their impact on the self-confidence of adolescents of secondary school in Embu County, Kenya. The study exposed that all the students were conscious about the use of SNSs and has diverse inspiration for visiting SNSs and social networking have greatly affecting the self-confidence and psychological wellbeing of secondary school students.

Wolf, Wenskovitch & Anton (2016) have studied to explore nurses' use of internet and social media in USA. Questionnaires were distributed using electronic survey methods for the study. The result of the study shows that nurses shared information regarding use of internet and the study concluded that nurse leaders need to consider and instruct nurses in using social media for individual and professional needs in order to improve the distribution of computer-generated facilities. Dwamena, Kwabla & Kanyir (2016) have studied about the student's arrangement in social media and its backbone for teaching and learning in Wa nursing training college. Questionnaire based on 4-Likert Scale and observation was circulated for data collection. The outcome of the study demonstrate that the student-nurses involved mostly in Facebook, WhatsApp, google+, YouTube and Twitter and social media was used mostly for learning, socialization and show business. Majority of the respondents have progressive effects in the academic performance through social media. Yeshambel, Belete & Muluallem (2016) have carry out a study on influence of online social networking on employee's output at work place in University of Gondar. The main purpose of the study is to observe the amount of social media involvement by workers and its influence on their output. The study exposed that social media have both harmful and helpful relationship; however, negative relationship was found stronger between social media contribution and worker output.

Alsaqri, Alkwiese & Dayrit (2018) have studied about the impact of SNSs on study habits among Saudi nursing students in Hail University. The study aims to investigate pedagogical influences of social networking websites of nursing training in Saudi Arabia. Correlation research configuration was utilized as a part of the examination. The examination structure is grounded in Technology Acceptance Model. The study concluded that all the college students are relatively involved in social media and majority of the respondents are using WhatsApp, twitter and snap chat and use of online SNS have a positive effect in their courses.

Valdez, G.F.D., *et al.* (2020) conducted study on identify the extent of SNS utilization, perceived benefits of SNSs and the potential of SNSs for improving the study habits of nursing students in Israel, Iraq, Oman, Philippines and Turkey. The study based on quantitative cross-sectional analyzing the survey responses of 1137 nursing students. The study concluded that SNSs have played vital role in forging connections and Facebook being the most popular site in academic work. Also SNSs has deep influence to the life of students' life at present.

3. Significance and scope of Study:

SNSs are one of the most fast-growing communication technologies in the world of information and communication era. Particularly it is very common among the youths for diverse activities. It is very essential to study awareness and uses of it by different personalities irrespective of age, caste,

religion, gender, colour, etc. All the students of BSc (Nursing) in MCON are girls coming from different social background between 20-25 ages. They are all young aspirants, who have desires to use SNSs for different activities. Therefore, the study of SNS by the students of young aspirants in the college is taken up in this research. The study is limited to BSc (Nursing) students in Mizoram College of Nursing (MCON) who are pursuing paramedical programme having common goal.

4. Objective of the Study:

Objectives of the study are:

- 1) To identify awareness and usage of SNSs by the study group.
- 2) To examine the purpose of using SNSs.
- 3) To explore usefulness of SNS in nursing course.
- 4) To identify problems in using social media.

5. Methodology:

To draw the inferences, one structured questionnaire was framed relating to the study. There are 130 students in the programme and the scholar selected 100 students, constituting 76.92% as sample size in simple random method. Questionnaire was circulated among the selected students and received 96% duly filled-in questionnaires from the respondents. Data received from the respondents were tabulated and analyzed with the help of MS Excel statistical tool and interpreted to draw the inferences of the study.

6. Discussion and Result:

The collected data were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted by using statistical measures and draw findings against the methodology as below:

6.1 Levels of awareness in SNSs:

SNSs are regarded as one of the most important tools in sharing information and communication at the present environment. The study reveals that all the respondents 96(100%) of BSc (Nursing) students in Mizoram College of Nursing are aware with SNSs and used one or more SNSs for different purposes.

6.2 Commonly used SNSs:

Among the different SNSs, the present study brings out that students have more than one SNSs account and most commonly used SNS by 96 respondents is WhatsApp. Out of the total respondents, 92(95.83%) have WhatsApp account being the highest and followed by Facebook 71(73.95%) and YouTube 68(70.83%) as second and third respectively. Instagram is fourth being 52(54.16%) users and followed by Google+ having 14(14.58%) and Academia.in 8(8.33%) users taking fifth and sixth position respectively. The study affirms that WhatsApp is most common SNSs used by the respondents followed by Facebook and YouTube. This data is presented in table below:

Table1: Commonly used SNSs

<i>SNSs</i>	<i>Respondents(N=96)</i>
YouTube	68(70.83%)
Google+	14(14.58%)

Facebook	71(73.95%)
Academia.edu	8(8.33%)
Instagram	52(54.16%)
WhatsApp	92(95.83%)

(N is number of Response) *Source: Survey Data*

6.3 Duration of accessing SNSs in a day:

The duration of accessing SNSs in a day depends according to the need of the users. It has been observed from the study that 54(56.25%) students spent 2 to 4 hours in a day to access SNSs; whereas 20(21%) respondents keep online SNSs throughout the day and 22(22.91%) respondents are not certain about time spent on accessing SNSs in a day. The study reveals that student using SNS for 2-4 hours in a day are more than who keep online all the time. The following Figure shows the duration of accessing SNSs by the students of MCON, Aizawl:

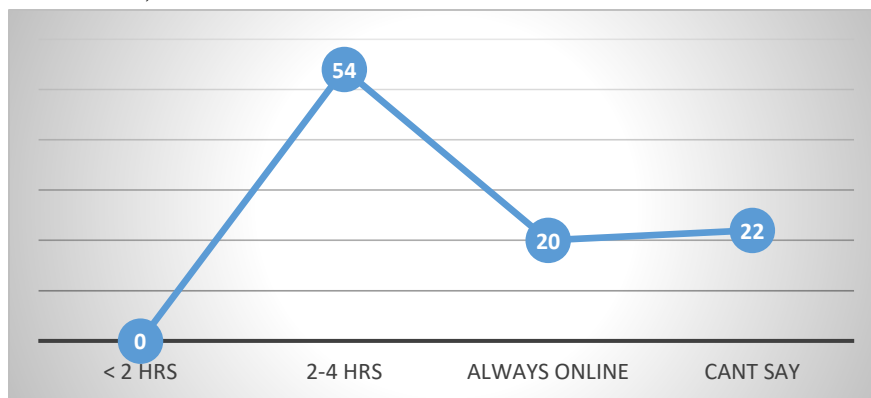


Figure1: Duration in accessing SNSs

6.4 Purpose of using SNSs:

SNSs can be used for various purposes like easy communication, messaging, sharing information, etc. The study reveals that most of the respondents used SNSs for more than one purposes. Out of the total respondents, 64(66.66%) use for academic queries being the highest and followed in the second and third by 59(61.45%) for information and 47(48.95%) to prepare assignments and projects. 27(28.12%) respondents used for entertainment and 25(26.04%) to make friends being fourth and fifth position. 23(23.95%) respondents used for chatting with friends and 18(18.75%) for sharing information and experiences being sixth and seventh position. The study reveals that SNSs are categorically used for academic purposes either for academic queries or preparing assignments and projects. This can be represented in table below:

Table 2: Purpose of using SNSs

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Respondents(N=96)</i>
Make Friends	25(26.04%)
For information	59(61.45%)
Sharing information & experience	18(18.75%)
Entertainment	27(28.12%)
Academic queries	64(66.66%)

To prepare projects, assignments	47(48.95%)
Chatting with friends	23(23.95%)

(N is number of Response)

Source: Survey Data

6.5 Tools used for accessing SNSs:

SNSs can be access from different tools depending upon the convenience of the user. The study reveals that 76(79%) students used mobile phone for accessing SNSs, 12(13%) use laptop to access SNSs and 8(8%) used Personal Computer for accessing SNSs. This shows that mobile phone is the most convenient tool for accessing SNSs for the students. The following figure shows tools used for accessing SNSs by the students of MCON.

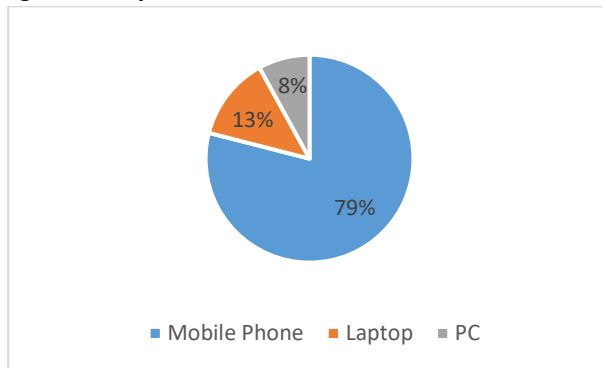


Figure 2: Tools use for accessing SNSs

6.6 Satisfaction of using SNSs:

SNSs have inordinate impact to daily lives of its users. The satisfaction levels depend on how a person used it according to his/her needs. The study reveals that majority of the respondents 62(64.58%) were satisfied in using SNSs, 14(14.58%) were neutral and 12 (12.5%) respondents were less satisfied in using SNSs and 8 (8.33%) respondents were not satisfied in using SNSs. It can be concluded from the study that the respondents are satisfied with SNS. This data is presented in figure below:

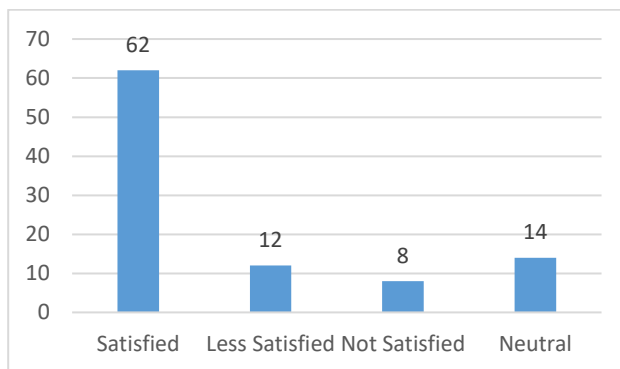


Figure 3: Levels of satisfaction

6.7 Reliability of SNSs information:

Social media can be used as an important source of information and on the other hand, it may be a platform in spreading faulty information. It is observed from the study that 59(61.45%)

respondents adjudge SNSs as partially reliable to their expectation and followed by 21(21.87%) respondents charging SNSs as not reliable and the remaining 16(16.66%) respondents feels that SNSs is reliable in its services. It is concluded that SNSs are not reliable to the expectation of the selected students in different angles.

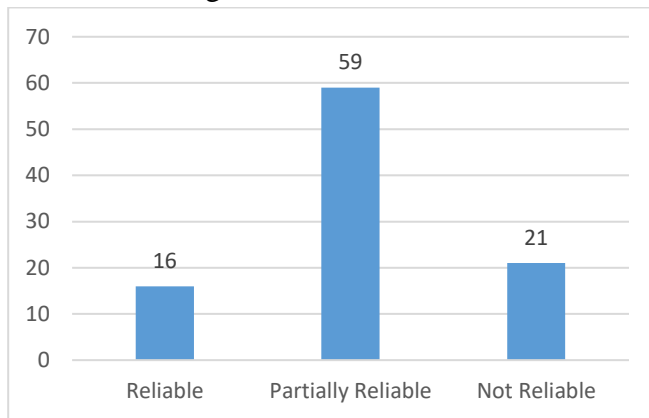


Figure 4: Reliability of SNSs information

6.8 Problems in using SNSs:

It has been observed from the study that 41(42.7%) BSc (Nursing) students of MCON claimed poor Internet facility is the main problems for using SNSs while 23(23.95%) of respondents charged lack of privacy and 13(13.54%) of the students faced problems due to Internet fraud. 8(8.33%) students are facing lack of technical knowledge, 6(6.25%) students claimed lack of time and 5(5.2%) feels that SNSs are not useful for their academic purposes. The main problem in using SNSs is poor internet connectivity for the students of MCON. This data is shown in table below:

Table 3: Problems in using SNSs

<i>Problems</i>	<i>Respondents(N=96)</i>
Lack of Privacy	23(23.95%)
Lack of Time	6(6.25%)
Lack of Technical Knowledge	8(8.33%)
Poor internet facility	41(42.7%)
Not useful for academic purpose	5(5.2%)
Internet fraud	13(13.54%)
Total	96(100%)

(N is number of Response)

Source: Survey Data

7. Conclusion:

At the present time, SNSs plays a very important role in dissemination of information and allows users to exchange information, opportunities and ideas. SNSs have now becoming a significant component and integral part of our daily lives and built upon the concept of traditional social networks, which connect users to new people having common interest. It is revealed from the study that the students of MCON are all aware with SNSs and most of the students used it for various purposes to find information, for sharing information and experience and for preparing projects, assignments relating to their academic purposes and majority of the students are familiar in using Facebook,

YouTube, Instagram and Google+ and it is also noted that majority of the students of MCON use mobile phone for accessing SNSs.

The present research suggested that SNSs have created more impact in the academic performance over the past decade. The awareness program should be made about computer knowledge and skills for the improvement among the students and try to aware the students about ethics to use SNSs. There should also be an academic group on social networking sites where faculty and students can share their academic information and interact with each other.

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